

Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children
prepare for school

Cornbelt Educational Cooperative



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

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Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Prepare for School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Talk about families. Tell your child that there are many different kinds of families. Offer some examples.
- 2. Tonight, have a family sing-along. Ask family members to share their favorite songs.
- 3. Label objects around the house, such as *table*, *chair* and *bed*. This will help your child with word recognition.
- 4. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for some quiet conversation with your child.
- 5. Float a plastic container in water. How many rubber animals can your child put into the “boat” before it sinks?
- 6. Teach your child a new game today.
- 7. Read a story aloud. Then ask your child to draw a picture of what happened *first* and another picture of what happened *last*.
- 8. Watch or read the weather forecast together today. Show your child the hottest and the coolest locations on a map.
- 9. Put together a jigsaw puzzle with your child.
- 10. Start a made-up story. “A dog walked down the road and he met a” Let your child finish the story.
- 11. Set a timer when it’s time to pick up toys and challenge your child to “beat the clock.”
- 12. Cover up the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what’s in the picture?
- 13. Make courtesy a family rule. Set an example by saying *please* and *thank you* to your child.
- 14. Pick a letter, such as *B*, and make its sound. Can your child think of words that start with that sound?
- 15. Choose a number of the day. Look for it everywhere with your child: on buildings, license plates, food packages, etc.
- 16. When selecting books to read aloud, look for books that you will enjoy, too. Your enjoyment will rub off on your child.
- 17. Have your preschooler help you set the table. Ask your child to count and name the items while placing them on the table.
- 18. Trace your child’s hand on paper. Brainstorm together about ways to be a helping hand. Write ideas on the drawing.
- 19. Put out paper scraps and a glue stick. Help your child make a collage.
- 20. Cut straws into different lengths. Encourage your child to line them up *shortest to longest*.
- 21. Make a pattern by alternating apple and banana slices. Can your child tell which will come next?
- 22. Ask your child, “What would you do if you were invisible for a day?”
- 23. Make a list of all the things that make your family members thankful.
- 24. Pick a color. Go room by room and each touch one item of that color.
- 25. Ice skate in the kitchen with your child. Wearing socks, pretend you’re on the ice. Be careful!
- 26. Ask your child category questions. Examples: What jumps? (*frogs*, *kangaroos*.) What swims? (*Fish*, *people*.)
- 27. Help your child draw letters in shaving cream sprayed in the empty tub.
- 28. Look in a mirror with your child. Ask, “What color are your eyes? Your hair? How many hands do you have?”
- 29. Have a screen-free evening. Tell stories instead.
- 30. Plan a family trip to a nearby museum.